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REMARKS

The amendments and remarks presented herein are believed to be fully responsive to the Office Action mailed February 2, 2010. Applicants wish to thank Examiner Charles for the helpful and courteous personal interview conducted with Frederick S. Burkhart on April 28, 2010, in which the claim amendments presented above were discussed. The amendments are fully supported in the application as originally filed. No new matter has been added. Accordingly, reconsideration is requested.

Claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10-15 and 17-20 are pending in the application. Claims 6, 9 and 16 were previously canceled without prejudice, and claims 2 and 3 are canceled herein without prejudice. Claims 1, 4, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13-15 and 18-20 have been amended as set forth above.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Applicants acknowledge the withdrawal of the previous indication of allowability of claims 7-9, 14-17 and 20 in view of U.S. Patent 5,608,971 to Koivula et al. Claims 1-5, 7-8, 10-15, and 17-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over German Patent Publication No. DE 28 18 170 to Herbst (“DE-2818170”) in view of U.S. Patent 5,608,971 to Koivula et al. (“US-5,608,971”).

Applicants note that the Office Action dated February 2, 2010 made reference to prior art not relied upon that was “cited in attached PTO Form 892.” However, it was recently noticed that no PTO Form 892 was received with the Office Action. The last PTO Form 892 received by Applicants was mailed August 4, 2009. Applicants respectfully request that if additional art should have been cited, a new Form 892 be generated and forwarded to the undersigned for consideration.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) because the claimed invention is not disclosed or suggested in DE-2818170 or US-5,608,971 taken alone or in combination. However, and without acquiescing in the rejections in any manner, and solely to expedite prosecution and allowance of the claims, Applicants have amended independent claim 1 to more clearly set forth Applicants’ invention. Applicants have amended independent claims 7, 8, 18 and 20 in a similar manner as claim 1, and have also amended

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dependent claims 4, 10, 11, 13-15 and 19 to harmonize the claim language. Applicants respectfully submit that the present claims are in condition for allowance for at least the reasons set forth below.

Applicants urge that DE-2818170 in view of US-5,608,971 or any other prior art reference of record, does not disclose or suggest or render obvious the claimed invention of independent claim 1. Claim 1 has now been amended to include the limitations of dependent claims 2 and 3 (now cancelled), and to more clearly set forth that the housing of the rotor block is one piece and generally box-shaped, with a plurality of housing walls. Claim 1 has been further clarified to recite that the housing forms a plurality of axially extending pivot bearing seats for receiving at least one of plain bearings and anti-friction bearings that are designed to support a rotor having a hub, where the seats are generally the width of the bearings.

Other clarified limitations in claim 1 include (i) the bearings are slidably dismantled from the rotor hub axially from an exterior of the housing, (ii) the rotor is dismantled from open sections at a downward side of the housing, (iii) the pivot bearing seats form openings directly configured in respective ones of the housing walls, (iv) the pivot bearing seats have upper regions that form segments around the bearings and lower regions that form the open sections for dismantling the rotor in relation to the bearings, (v) the segments are greater than a semicircle, (vi) that the open sections formed at a narrowing of the openings that is larger than a diameter of the hub of the rotor, (vii) the open sections are pointing perpendicularly downward (i.e. from a horizontal reference), and (viii) the bearings are smaller than the segments and larger than the open sections of the pivot bearing seats.

DE-2818170 teaches an impeller shaft (10) journaled by rolling bearings (not shown) in bearing flanges (7, 8) that are placed in bores (5, 6) in side walls (2, 3) (see FIG. 2), and further teaches that each side wall (2, 3) has a slot (18), parallel to a horizontal support rail (4), for guiding the impeller shaft (10). However, Applicants respectfully submit that DE-2818170 fails to teach or suggest, for example, at least one of plain bearings and antifriction bearings that are slidably dismantled from the rotor hub, axially from an exterior of the housing; a rotor that is dismantled from open sections at a downward side of the housing; and pivot bearing seats with lower regions that form the open sections for

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dismantling the rotor in relation to the bearings, the open sections pointing perpendicularly downward, as recited in Applicants' independent claim 1.

Applicants respectfully submit that neither US-5,608,971 nor any other prior art reference of record makes up for the deficiencies of DE-2818170.

US-5,608,971 teaches bearing wheel journal boxes (6) seated in respective scatings (21) of supporter side plates (4), the journal boxes (6) each supporting a shaft (3) in bearings (5) (see FIG. 2). The journal box (6) has a reduced-thickness portion (12) that is smaller than the distance (W) between the corners (23, 25) of the seating (21) so that the journal box (6) can be inserted into the seating (21) with the reduced-thickness portion (12) aligned with the corners (23, 25). The corners (23, 25) of the seating (21) are arranged so that the journal box (6) is removed at an acute angle relative to a horizontal or a vertical reference. However, US-5,608,971 fails to teach or suggest, for example, at least one of plain bearings and antifriction bearings that are slidably dismantled from the rotor hub, axially from an exterior of the housing, and a rotor that is dismantled from open sections at a downward side of the housing, the open sections pointing perpendicularly downward. Applicants further submit that none of the other references of record make up for the deficiencies of DE-2818170.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that DE-2818170, taken alone or in combination with US-5,608,971 or any other prior art reference of record, teaches, suggests, or renders obvious the claimed rotor block as claimed in claim 1. Thus, Applicants submit that independent claim 1 and its dependent claims, namely claims 4-5, 10-15 and 17, are allowable over the prior art of record for at least the reasons set forth above.

With respect to independent claims 7, 8, 18 and 20, all of these independent claims have been amended in a similar manner as independent claim 1, discussed above. Therefore, for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to independent claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that neither DE-2818170, nor US-5,608,971, nor any other prior art reference of record teaches, suggests, or renders obvious the claimed rotor block as claimed in independent claims 7, 8, 18 and 20. Thus, Applicants submit that independent claims 7, 8, 18 and 20 and their dependent claims are allowable over the prior art of record.

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Claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10-15 and 17-20 remain pending in the application. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10-15 and 17-20 are in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is earnestly and respectfully requested. If Examiner Charles has any questions or reservations, it is requested that the Examiner call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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